

# Census 2000 Quick Tips

## Math Activities

The Census Bureau provides several tables showing the Resident Population Totals for April 1, 2000. These tables include the state population totals for 2000 and 1990, the numeric change, percent change, and various rankings. Rather than giving the Census Bureau tables to students, students can practice basic math skills by completing their own table ([see Student Table 1](#)). Student's results may then be compared to the Census Bureau results.

- I. Have students work in teams to calculate the following information to complete columns in Student Table 1:
  - a) Column 4, Numeric Change
  - b) Column 5, Percent Change
  - c) Column 6, State Rank as of April 1, 2000
  - f) Column 7, State Rank as of April 1, 1990

Note: Older students can practice computer skills by creating their own spreadsheets.

Optional Extension:

Add the following columns to the table:

Column 8, State Rank Based on Numeric Change

Column 9, State Rank Based on Percent Change

1. Have students check their answers with the actual data from the following Census Bureau tables: ([www.census.gov/population/cen2000/tab04.pdf](http://www.census.gov/population/cen2000/tab04.pdf) and [www.census.gov/population/cen2000/tab05.pdf](http://www.census.gov/population/cen2000/tab05.pdf))
  2. Students may complete the worksheet, "[The State of the States](#)," to analyze the data that they have compiled.
- II. Assign or have students select five states and construct a graph comparing 1990 and 2000 Resident Population Totals for each state. Students may then construct graphs for other variables, the table that they compiled, or Tables 4 and 5 from the Census Bureau ([www.census.gov/population/cen2000/tab04.pdf](http://www.census.gov/population/cen2000/tab04.pdf) and [www.census.gov/population/cen2000/tab05.pdf](http://www.census.gov/population/cen2000/tab05.pdf).)
- III. Have students calculate the percent of the total population in several states. For example: The April 1, 2000 population of Michigan is 9,938,444; Michigan residents make up 3.5 percent of the U.S. population.

## Social Studies Activities

1. Have students construct a choropleth (thematic) map of the Census 2000 population by state. Use the key from the "We Count: Population of the United States" map from the "Making Sense of Census 2000" teaching kit as a guide. The April 1, 2000 resident population totals may be found at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov). These tables may be accessed directly at [www.census.gov/population/cen2000/tab04.pdf](http://www.census.gov/population/cen2000/tab04.pdf) and [www.census.gov/population/cen2000/tab05.pdf](http://www.census.gov/population/cen2000/tab05.pdf). Students may also map other variables from Tables 4

and 5. Creating a map showing the percent change by state will give students a better idea of the rate of change across the country.

2. **Apportionment Data.** On December 28, 2000 the Census Bureau delivered the apportionment population counts for each state to the President. Have your students review current and historical apportionment information and discuss the changes in their state and the nation over time. Recent news articles may provide some interesting discussion and debate themes. Download more information on apportionment, including charts and maps from [www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html](http://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html).

A complete reapportionment/redistricting lesson, “[District Decisions](#),” is available from “Making Sense of Census 2000 (9-12).” Use the new redistricting numbers to update this lesson.